

Effective 5/13/2014

4-18-102 Purpose declaration.

- (1) The Legislature finds and declares that:
 - (a) the soil and water resources of this state constitute one of its basic assets; and
 - (b) the preservation of these resources requires planning and programs to ensure:
 - (i) the development and utilization of these resources; and
 - (ii) their protection from the adverse effects of wind and water erosion, sediment, and sediment related pollutants.
- (2) The Legislature finds that local production of food is essential for:
 - (a) the security of the state's food supply; and
 - (b) the self-sufficiency of the state's citizens.
- (3) The Legislature finds that sustainable agriculture is critical to:
 - (a) the success of rural communities;
 - (b) the historical culture of the state;
 - (c) maintaining healthy farmland;
 - (d) maintaining high water quality;
 - (e) maintaining abundant wildlife;
 - (f) high-quality recreation for citizens of the state; and
 - (g) helping to stabilize the state economy.
- (4) The Legislature finds that livestock grazing on public lands is important for the proper management, maintenance, and health of public lands in the state.
- (5) The Legislature encourages each agricultural producer in the state to operate in a reasonable and responsible manner to maintain the integrity of land, soil, water, and air.
- (6) To encourage each agricultural producer in this state to operate in a reasonable and responsible manner to maintain the integrity of the state's resources, the state shall administer the Utah Agriculture Certificate of Environmental Stewardship Program, created in Section 4-18-107.

Amended by Chapter 383, 2014 General Session